

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS ROUND 5 2018–2021

PARENT PARTNERS FOR FAMILIES OF MIAMI-DADE

LEAD AGENCY: Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.

LOCATION: Miami, FL

PROGRAM FUNDING: \$1,900,000

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Miami-Dade County

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION: Region 4

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED: FL-024

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc., the Florida Department of Children and Families, Southern Region, the University of South Florida, The Village South Inc., South Florida Behavioral Health Network, and other community stakeholders join in partnership to bring the Parent Partner for Families (PPFF) program to Miami-Dade County to support and empower families that are struggling with parental substance use disorders and whose children have been placed in out-of-home care. The goal of parent-partner peer support is to support parents in successfully following through and completing all recommended substance use disorder treatments and behavioral health services and supports. The PPFF program is focused on family reunification and parental well-being with particular attention to improved family functioning, system re-entry prevention, and prevention of future child abuse and neglect to support child well-being in the long term.

Integration of parent partners within case management services is achieved in a number of ways, particularly through regular check-ins with case managers and serving as a bridge to families in order to increase the reach of services intended to reunify children and youth with their families. Parent partners work with the family to build knowledge of and access to community-based resources and services, provide assistance to navigate requirements for service use, and also help engage parents into the dependency court process.

TARGET POPULATION AND PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED

Families who reside in Miami-Dade County who: (1) have at least one child/youth (aged 0–17) placed in out-of-home care, (2) have a goal of reunification, and (3) have substance use disorder treatment as a case plan goal.

Total: 240 families (120 program group; 120 comparison group)

MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

GOAL 1: Support parents in understanding case plan goals and understanding goals and ramifications of case management services.

GOAL 2: Facilitate access to, engagement in, and adherence to substance use disorder treatment on the part of parents with a case plan.

GOAL 3: Support parents in meeting case plan reunification goals.

GOAL 4: Prevent reentry into the child welfare system after reunification.

MAJOR PROGRAM SERVICES

- **Case Management and Case Conferencing**
 - Intensive/Coordinated Case Management
- **Assessments**
 - Child Behavior Checklist (preschool form)
 - Child Behavior Checklist (school age form)
 - Infant-Toddler Sensory Profile
 - Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory
 - Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale
 - Addiction Severity Index (self-report form)
 - Trauma Symptoms Checklist-40
- **Wraparound and In-Home Services**
 - Home Visiting Services
- **Mental Health and Trauma Services for Adults**
 - Linkage as part of Parent Partners for Families (PPFF)
- **Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults**
 - Linkage as part of Parent Partners for Families (PPFF)
- **Housing Services**
 - Linkage as part of Parent Partners for Families (PPFF)
- **Cross-Systems/Interagency Collaboration—Clinical-Related Activities**
 - Joint Staff Meetings (to include PPFF peer and parent)

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **Child Welfare**
 - Florida Department of Children and Families, Southern Region, Other Child Services Providers (non-profit or for-profit)
 - Center for Family and Child Enrichment

- Children's Home Society
- Family Resource Center
- **Substance Use Disorder Treatment**
 - The Village South, Inc./WestCare
 - Agape
- **Mental Health**
 - South Florida Behavioral Health Network
- **Other Community and Child and Family Services**
 - Florida Foster Care Review
 - Citizen's Review Panel
 - The Federation of Families, Miami-Dade Chapter Inc., local chapter of the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- **Evaluation**
 - The Department of Child and Family Studies within the College of Behavioral and Community Studies at the University of South Florida

EVALUATION DESIGN

Outcome Study Design: Randomized Control Trial (RCT)

The Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc. local evaluation has three components: an impact study, an implementation study, and a partnership study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

Impact Study Design

The grantee will use a stepped wedge cluster randomized-controlled trial design to examine the impact of their RPG services among parents whose children are in out-of-home placement, have a case plan goal of reunification, and at least one parent is required to attend substance use disorder treatment as a reunification goal. Members of the program group will receive the usual child welfare case management services plus the addition of a peer support worker—known as a Parent Partner—who will coordinate with the parent's case manager and behavioral health treatment providers, help parents understand their case plan goals, help parents engage in and access substance use services, and advocate for the parents. Members of the comparison group will receive the usual case management services. Services will last 16 weeks for families in the program group. Comparison group families will receive usual case management services for 16 weeks and, after they contribute data to the comparison group, will be offered program group services for 16 weeks. The impact study will include 240 families, with 120 in the program group and 120 in the comparison group. The grantee will examine impacts in the following domains: permanency, safety, child well-being, family functioning, and recovery.

Data sources include administrative data and information collected by data collectors using standardized instruments. Grantee staff will conduct data collection with standardized instruments for both the program and comparison groups. Data will be collected two or three times for each family. All families will be assessed (1) before they are randomly assigned and begin receiving services (baseline) and (2) 16 weeks following baseline (when RPG services end for the program group). Those families who were initially assigned to the comparison group and then roll into the program group will receive a third assessment another 16 weeks later (that is, 32 weeks from when they were randomly assigned at baseline) at the end of their service period.

Implementation Study Design

In the implementation study, the grantee will use an implementation fidelity framework to identify the implementation factors associated with improvements in family outcomes. The study will examine peer support activities, the peer support process, and participant skill building. Data sources include interviews and/or focus groups with project stakeholders (including parents, Parent Partners, and court staff); observations of training activities and, where possible, observations of activities between Partner Partners and parents; and a review of program documents.

Partnership Study Design

The partnership study will focus on the role of key stakeholders in the design, implementation, and sustainability of the program. The study will measure partnership dimensions through the Collaborative Capacity Instrument and stakeholder participation through attendance at meetings, a review of meeting notes, and the number of formal agreements with partners. The partnership study will also have a formative component. The evaluator will review implementation at each partnership development phase (such as the partnership building stage) to generate information for the project's advisory committee and other stakeholders. Data sources for the formative component include interviews and/or focus groups with project stakeholders (including parents, Parent Partners, and court staff); observations of training activities and, where possible, observations of activities between Partner Partners and parents; and a review of program documents. These data sources will support the partnership study and implementation study.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

The PPFF study findings will be used to inform stakeholders of the achievements of the project, which is expected to be of great interest to a broad range of child welfare and behavioral health system stakeholders. The Advisory Committee will serve as a vehicle for keeping cross-system partners informed about project progress and preliminary evaluation findings. In addition, the work of the committee to identify strategies for overcoming system coordination barriers will be documented and disseminated through presentations and trainings to system stakeholders to support incorporation of protocols developed to ensure successful cross-system coordination and engagement strategies generated from PPFF. PPFF intends to support knowledge-building around the coordination efforts that made the most difference with regard to supporting local incorporation of the PPFF program so that the community will have the capacity to sustain and expand on the intervention. The ultimate goal is to institutionalize program strategies and activities into organizational policy and infrastructure—especially those that facilitate data sharing and collective oversight of parent partners. Since child welfare and behavioral health are

privatized and local, the community can fund and expand the project when federal funding ceases if, in fact, the data show positive outcomes. Over the years, Our Kids has funded innovative projects that began as grant funded pilots and succeeded, such as Nurturing and Strengthening Families, Child-Parent psychotherapy, Structured Decision-Making Family Finders and Teen pregnancy prevention initiatives.

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